

Appl. No. 09/597,192
Amdt. dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 6, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have received the Office action dated August 6, 2004, in which the Examiner: 1) objected to portions of the Specification; 2) objected to claims 4, 8, 10, 14-16, and 19 for various formalities; 3) rejected claims 1-11 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112; and 4) rejected claims 1-2, 8, 11, 13, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over *Blumenthal et al.* (U.S. Patent No.: 5,257,287, hereinafter "*Blumenthal*") in view of *McAllister et al.* (U.S. Patent No.: 5,995,551, hereinafter "*McAllister*").

With this Response, the Applicants have amended portions of the Specification, amended claims 1 and 11, and canceled claims 3 and 14.

I. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the Applicants' use of the cliché "an island unto itself" on page 3, line 9 of the Specification. The Applicants have amended the Specification to eliminate the use of this cliché and yet still underscore the trend that the microprocessor-memory complex is becoming increasingly independent from other portions of the system. In addition, the Examiner objected to a clerical error in the Specification at page 17, line 5, where the associated 10-bit word for the SKIP word name was "001111 01000" instead of "001111 0100." The Applicants have amended the Specification to reflect the correct associated 10-bit word for the SKIP word name. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the Specification.

II. OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner objected to various informalities in claims 4, 8, 10, 15, and 19. In both claims 4 and 15 the phrase "a positive" has been amended to "the positive" to maintain consistency with language in dependent claims 2 and 13 respectively. Claim 8 has been amended to read "a 10B/8B code" instead of "an 10B/8B code." Claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the original language "the sequences" refers to "the first and second sequences" recited in claims 1 and

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9. Similarly, claim 19 has been amended to refer to the first and second sequences referred to in claims 11 and 18. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim objections.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, and 15-19 under § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement for two reasons. First, claim 1, as amended, recites a "circuit configured to determine if the first sequence of received symbols is incorrect." The Examiner stated that it is unclear what portion of Figure 8 the "circuit" recited in claim 1 is referring to. Second, the Examiner stated that the Specification fails to explain how to determine if the received symbols are incorrect due to inversion of the differential signals as recited in claims 1, 9, 11, and 18. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and each is dealt with below.

As the Examiner pointed out in the Office action, the elements of claim 1 are illustrated by at least some portions of Figure 8. The Applicants respectfully submit that the "circuit" recited in claim 1 also may be illustrated in Figure 8. For example, in some embodiments, the synchronization circuit 880 may examine the sequence of received signals to determine if it is correct due to inversion of the differential signal, and if so, the synchronization circuit 880 causes the lane receiver 830 to correct for the signal inversion. Specification, page 7, lines 9-12.

Furthermore, detail of how to determine if the received symbols are incorrect due to inversion of the differential signals is contained in the Specification at least on pages 14 and 15. In general, the data conveyed on the physical link 820 is encoded such that a portion of the data conveyed includes a portion that is insensitive to data inversion (e.g., comma delimiter) and a portion that is sensitive to data inversion (e.g., training symbol). Thus, the adapter 800 may detect the beginning of the training data by looking for the comma delimiter (which will be correctly interpreted regardless of any data inversion on the

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physical link 820), and then detecting whether the training symbol is received or the complement of the training symbol is received (the interpretation of the training symbol will vary based on the data inversion on the physical link 820). If the expected training symbol is received, then there is no need to invert subsequent bits on that particular lane. If the complement of the training symbol is received, however, then subsequent bits received on that particular lane will be inverted. Specification, page 15, lines 9-19.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 11, as well as dependent claims 2, 4-10, 13, and 15-19 are properly enabled by the Specification.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8, 11, 13, and 17 under § 103 over *Blumenthal* in view of *McAllister*. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements. For example, claims 1 and 11, as amended, each recite a "sequence of received signals ... including start and training symbols, where the decoded value of the start symbol is unaffected by inversion of the differential signal and the decoded value of the training symbol is affected by inversion of the differential signal." The Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Blumenthal* nor *McAllister* teach or suggest a received signal that includes a portion that is affected by inversion of the signal as well as a portion that is unaffected by inversion of the signal. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 11, as well as dependent claims 2, 4-10, 13, and 15-19 are not rendered obvious by the cited art.

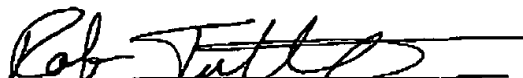
V. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents

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accompanying this paper. In the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, however, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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